(i) restricting the concession during 1993-94 to indigenous production only.

(ii) reduction in railway freight in respect of raw material such as phosphatic Acid, Rock Phosphate etc.

(iii) abolition of customs duty on certain raw materials.

Manufacturing of Drip Irrigation Equipments

5035. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Ahmedabad-based Industrialist has floated Rs. 525 crores company to manufacture drip irrigation equipments;

(b) whether the project of Narmada Macplast Drip Irrigation system is coming up at Santej village in Kalol taluka of Gujarat;

(c) if so, wheher this project is being undertaken with the help of Israel;

(d) whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out; and

(e) if so, by when the drip irrigation equipments will be made available to meet the total demands ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No such information is available.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes. Technical help to set up the plant is being provided by Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

(e) There are over 30 companies existing to meet the total demand.

Production of Pulses

5036. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) wether FAO has given any advice on the need to increase the production of pulses which forms the poor man's protein requirement;

(b) if so, the reaction of Ministry of Agriculture;

(c) whether Agriculture Ministry will encourage farmers in Andhra Pradesh to take to cultivation of pulses: and

(d) what incentives are being offered for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses in the Ministry of Agriculture has not received such advice.

(c) and (d) To encourage the farmers for higher production Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 26 states including Andhra Pradesh in which key inputs like production and distribution of seeds, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets. Integrated Pest Management Demonstrations, Dal Processors/Storage bins, Micro-nutrients, Rhyzobium Culture/Phosphate solublizing bacteria etc. are supplied to the farmers on reduced rates. Production Technology is being disseminated through Front Line Demonstrations by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and general Demonstration by State Department of Agriculture.

The cost of the scheme is being shared by the Govt. of India and State Govt. on 75:25 basis. The Central allocation for Andhra Pradesh during 1993-94 was Rs. 130.00 lakhs which has been raised to Rs. 140.00 lakhs during 1994-95.

Starvation deaths in Pathini Tea Estate

5037. SHRI SOM PAL :

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the 'Economic Times' of 16th March, 1994 to the effect that 'Nine workers of Pathini